

WASHINGTON 11-137

## INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

### PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:

**Contract** Task Order under the Prosperity, Livelihoods and  
Conserving Ecosystems Indefinite Quantity  
Contract (PLACE IQC)

**Countries:** Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines,  
Cambodia, Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Central  
Asian Republics, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, South  
Pacific

**Program:** Asia Environmental Field Support

**Time Period:** October 2011- September 2013

**Funding begins:** FY2010

**Funding Ends:** FY2013

**LOP Amounts:** \$ 850,000

**IEE prepared by:** Mary Melnyk, ME/TS

Mary Melnyk Date 7/21/2011

**Date:** July 21, 2011

**IEE Amendment (Y/N):** N

### ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED: (Place X where applicable)

Categorical Exclusion: X Negative Determination: \_\_\_\_\_  
Positive Determination: \_\_\_\_\_ Deferral: \_\_\_\_\_

### ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS: (Place X where applicable)

CONDITIONS \_\_\_\_\_ PVO/NGO: \_\_\_\_\_

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS & RECOMMENDED THRESHOLD DECISION

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(a), environmental analysis/evaluation is required for new projects, programs or activities authorized by USAID. This IEE evaluates activities planned under Asia Environmental Field Support.

A **Categorical Exclusion** pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2), is recommended for:

1. all education, technical assistance, and training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i),
2. all controlled experimentation exclusively for the purpose of research and field evaluation which are confined to small areas and carefully monitored (22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(ii));
3. analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings (22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(iii));
4. Projects in which USAID is a minor donor to a multi-donor project and there is no potential significant effects upon the environment of the United States, areas outside any nation's jurisdiction or endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat (22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(iv));
5. document and information transfers (22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(v));
6. studies, projects or programs intended to develop the capability of recipient countries to engage in development planning, except to the extent designed to result in activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc) (22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(xiv));
7. activities which involve the application of design criteria or standards developed and approved by USAID (22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(xv)).

## **BACKGROUND**

Climate change will greatly impact Asia where around 60% of the world's population lives and three of the world's largest emitters occur. How people, communities, cities, and countries adapt to current and future climatic changes in the face of severe environmental degradation is among the greatest development challenges for the region. Maintaining the ecosystem, social and economic resilience of the region is a key priority for adaptation to climate change.

## **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this activity is to provide a resource for USAID Asia Missions to aid them in the planning, implementation and evaluation of programs to be undertaken under USAID's Global Climate Change Initiative. The task order will be a source of short-term technical assistance on topics such as climate change adaptation, climate change integration within the development portfolio, monitoring and evaluation and infrastructure development. The task order will provide additional assistance by compiling climate-related statistics, communicating USAID region-wide results and monitoring overall environmental threats, changes and opportunities, some of them related to infrastructure development.

A key component of the technical assistance will be to support USAID Forward efforts in evidence-based programming and monitoring and evaluation. Opportunities for scaling

up USAID pilots will be a part of evaluations. It will also work to improve the integration of climate change throughout the Asia development portfolio. As a result, USAID field missions will have a source of technical field support on an as needed basis. In addition, the Asia and Middle East Bureaus will have a resource in which they can source essential statistics and baseline information to track trends as well as to collate and report back important results from the field.

The Task Order is comprised of the following tasks and related deliverables:

### **Task 1: Identify and Fill Short-Term Technical Assistance Needs of Asia Operating Units**

#### **Task 1: Deliverables**

- Survey of USAID Asia operating units outlining STTA needs.
- Work plan for meeting the STTA needs
- Provision of STTA to Operating Units based on survey and as needs arise

### **Task 2: Monitoring and Evaluation**

#### **Task 2: Deliverables**

- Country fact sheets on climate change including statistics related to emissions and vulnerabilities
- Interpretations of the implications of climate models for countries in the region. This should include descriptions of particularly vulnerable geographic areas for biodiversity, ecosystem services and rural and urban livelihoods.
- Compilation and maintenance of a database on the following: climate, trends and statistics for use by USAID staff; USAID climate change programs in Asia; and USAID climate change reports since 2005
- Reviews and summaries of USAID progress in addressing climate-related indicators and to demonstrate large-scale impact
- Evidence documented of successful USAID innovations and pilots that could be brought to scale across the region in support of climate change adaptation.

### **Task 3: Monitoring Infrastructure, Extractive Industry and Industrial Agriculture Activities**

#### **Task 3: Deliverables**

Report that:

- a) surveys existing and planned infrastructure, extractive industry and industrial agriculture projects;
- b) overlays these project sites with key areas for ecosystems, global biodiversity initiatives (e.g. Global Tiger Initiative), and resource-



- dependent poor, that are vulnerable to climate change;
- c) prioritizes up to 10 specific projects for further monitoring, reviews existing analyses of the social, environmental and economic benefits, costs and impacts of these projects (existing or planned) including the impact on the climate and impacting the ability of ecosystems and communities to adapt to climate change;
  - d) analyzes the degree to which current projects are resilient to climate change and whether future projects are including adaptation in their design (N.B. an important detail is the ability of concrete structures, e.g. bridges, dams, and mining operations particularly their tailing dams structures to withstand climate change including extreme weather events); and
  - e) analyzes the degree to which project sponsors are fulfilling their environmental and social commitments.
- Quarterly updates of the prioritized projects
  - Written inputs to USAID Title XIII reports

#### **Task 4: Outreach and Communications**

##### **Task 4: Deliverables**

- Tables, short summaries and other forms of outreach materials based on the deliverables of the other tasks as well as what may be requested on an as needed basis.

#### **APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

By signing below, you approve the IEE for Asia Environmental Field Support.

#### **CLEARANCES:**

#### **DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

ME/TS Director: \_\_\_\_\_

John Wilson

date

7/21/11

#### **DECISION OF THE ASIA AND MIDDLE EAST BUREAUS ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER:**

Asia and ME: Robert MacLeod date 8/12/11  
Robert MacLeod  
Asia and Middle East Bureaus- Bureau Environment Officer

Approved: ☒

Disapproved: ☐

**APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

By signing below, you approve the IEE for "Establishing a Collaborative Effort to Assess the Role of Glaciers and Seasonal Snow Cover in the Hydrology of the Mountains of High Asia".

**CLEARANCES:**

**DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

ME/TS Director: John Wilson date 7/21/11  
John Wilson

**DECISION OF THE ASIA AND MIDDLE EAST BUREAUS ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER:**

Asia and ME: Robert MacLeod date 8/12/11  
Robert MacLeod  
Asia and Middle East Bureaus- Bureau Environment Officer

Approved: ☒

Disapproved: ☐